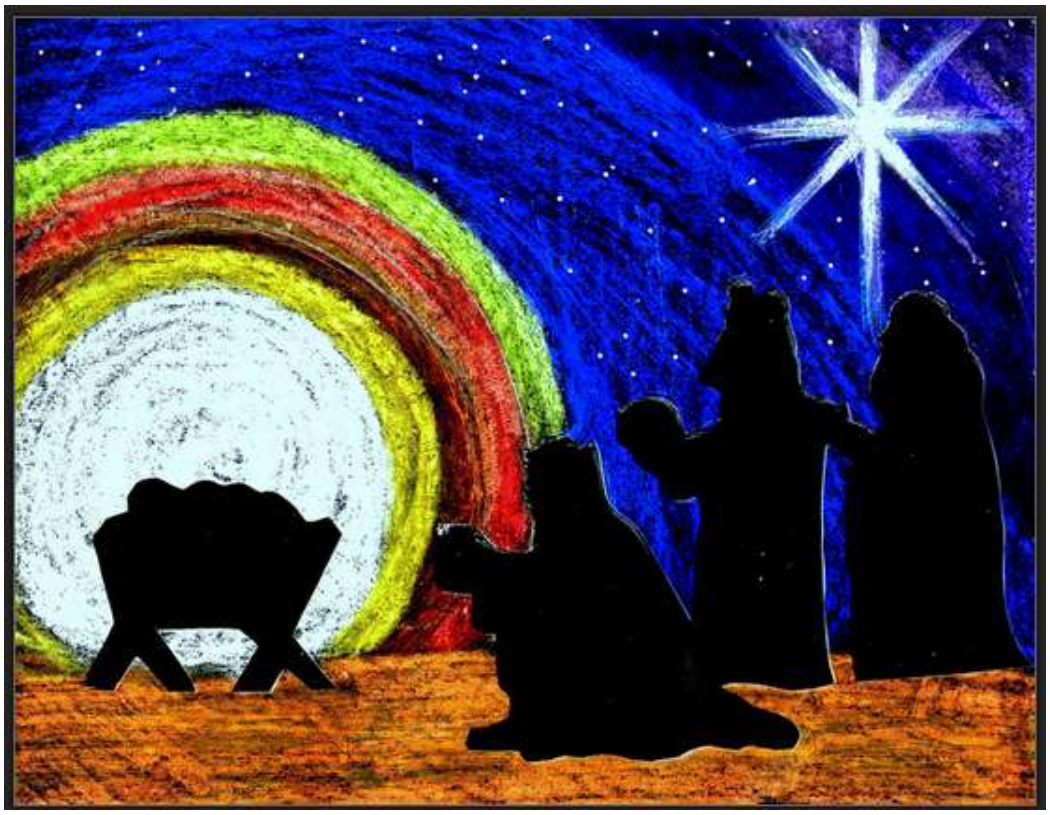
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti



http://stushieart.com/tag/epiphany-clip-art/page/2/ - King of Kings by Stushie

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

January 4, 2015 10:00 am

Epiphany

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, soft cover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, soft cover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Sing a Different Song"** **150 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Ivan Harner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

****Please rise in body or spirit as you are able***

Announcements Ivan Harner

Ringing the Bell

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Focusing Prayer (Unison) Ivan Harner

We praise you, O god, for the comfort you offer and the bounty you bestow. Where you are, there is peace. In your word, there is justice. We seek your presence, so that we might receive a spiritual blessing. Grant us wisdom and insight so we might know the mystery of your will. We have welcomed a baby in Bethlehem and now we seek to learn more about our inheritance through Christ. Share with us the wisdom to understand the teachings of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem **"To This Altar"** FCC Choir

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ivan Harner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward* Carol Hall

New Testament Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 Carol Hall

Reflection **"Over Our Heads?"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"** **129 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional

Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our Father and Mother
Who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come.
Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn **"See The Little Baby"** 147 NCH

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison)

Ivan Harner

How will nations hear God's word if the church does not speak it? Who will seek the lost if we do not care? Who will teach the young if we have no time for them? Who will uphold true values against the darkness of human actions if we don't? Let us give so that our ministries may continue their work, because what we return to God can make a difference. Amen.

Offertory

Steve McGhee

*Doxology **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Ivan Harner

Use our gifts, holy God, to sound a word of hope in our world. Let them reach beyond this place to care for lonely, frightened, hurting people. Extend them among the children and youth who need to know someone cares. Use these gifts to shine the light of your Son, Jesus Christ far and wide. Amen.

COMMUNING WITH GOD

***Hymn of Blessing** **"Lord, You Are Welcome"** **31 SING**

Communion Service Carol Hall

Communion will be served by intinction in our chairs.
All are Welcome at the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving Carol Hall

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Angels From the Realms of Glory"** **126 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: Scatter with radiance in your hearts.
Go out to proclaim God's word by your deeds.
Many: **We seek to walk in the light God gives us**
We will act on the truth God reveals.
One: Carry God's commands as a beacon to guide you.
Share them that others may find new life.
Many: **The gospel of salvation is good news for the world.**
God lifts our spirits to songs of joy. Amen.

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: January 4th	Next Sunday: Jan. 11th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Wayne & Lyle Molter
Preaching	Carol Hall	Herman Haller
Worship Leader	Ivan Harner	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Anne Marie N-T	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Kelsie Molter & Desayre Penn
Friendship Time	Margaret Harner	Barb Garland
Sunday School	Melanie Harner	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citrus Fruit Sale 2014-2015: January Shipment Orders are due **today** or no later than **January 5th at noon**.
Delivery will be January 16th.
Contact Tad Wysor (734) 483-3761 or Wayne Burling (734) 377-0696 if you have any questions.

- **Navel Oranges (~20 lbs):** **$22/box ($11 for 1/2 box)**
- **Ruby Red Grapefruit (~20 lbs):** **$20/box ($10 for 1/2 box)**
- **Seedless Mandarin Oranges (5 lb bag):** **$8 per bag**

- **Minneola "Honeybell"** were **PRE-ORDERED** in **December** for the January delivery due to limited supplies.
  New orders cannot be guaranteed **$30/box ($15 for 1/2 box)**

DREAM OF JUSTICE: Walt Kemnitz will be bringing the Dream of Justice team from COGS to FCC UCC Ypsilanti on Sunday, January 18th to provide their informational presentation on justice issues and incarceration following our service @1130 am or so.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsal this week will be Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-482-5619.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expired May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.